(c) A Court of Enquiry has been ordered into the accident, which is in progress.

**Construction of Atomic Power Plants**

1553. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many developed and developing countries of the world have of late started discouraging the construction work of atomic projects in their countries;

(b) if so, what is the detailed information in this regard;

(c) whether Government are also considering to bring a change in the policy in this direction; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) There is a general trend in reduced ordering of nuclear power plants in certain developed countries.

(b) Each country has its own reasons such as staturation in demand, public opposition, aftermath of Chernobyl, nonavailability of funds, tighter regulatory measures or easy access to coal, oil or hydroelectric power.

(c) and (d) Nuclear power constitutes at present a small percentage (3%) of the total electricity production of the country and in a large country like India where coal is available only in certain regions an optimal mix of thermal, hydro and nuclear power is needed for proper planning of generation of electricity in an economical manner.

**Report of the Committee on ASLV**

1554. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the Report of the Committee on fault analysis of ASLV; and

(b) what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) The Report of the Committees on fault analysis of ASLV are yet to be received and the actions to be taken will depend upon the Committees' recommendation and further analysis.

**Couples protected by Family Planning Methods**

1555. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of couples in the reproductive age group protected by family planning methods has reached an all time high in the country during 1987-88;

(b) if so, what was the total number of couples which opted for family planning in 1987-88 and to what extent it was more in comparison to the earlier years; and

(c) what are the States where the performance of the family planning methods have improved and what are the other steps being taken to improve family planning methods further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) The